DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

7.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 4 7, wherein the storing of the BOMs includes:

> storing one or more data structures in the processing system for storing the plurality of BOMs,

the method further comprising:

> storing a list of elements in the processing system, each element in the list of elements having a unique element identifier, each element in each BOM being one of the elements in the list of elements,

such that the list of elements and the one or more data structures are part of a database stored in the same processing system.

10.   (Amended) A method for managing a plurality of bills of material (BOMs) comprising:

> storing a database in a processing system, the database including:

>> a list of elements, each element having a unique identifier, one or more elements of the list of elements being for inclusion in one or more of the plurality of BOMs; and

>> one or more data structures for storing the plurality of BOMs, each BOM describable as a tree with each node an element of the list of elements, eachat least one element in each BOMa two or more of the BOMs associated with an owner of a set of owners, eachtwo or more of the BOM being associated with an a respective owner of the set of owners, and

> providing remote access to one or more elements of information in the database to one or more users,

such that the database may contain two BOMS associated with two different owners.

12.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein each of one or more elements in the element list isare associated with a respective owner of the set of owners, and wherein the list of elements includes an indication of ownership for each element associated with one of the owners, the method further comprising:

> restricting access to information about a particular element in the element list that is associated with a particular owner to the particular owner and none or more designates of the particular owner.

14.   (Amended) A method for managing a plurality of bills of material (BOMs) comprising:

storing a database in a processing system, the database including:

a list of elements, each element having a unique identifier, one or more of the elements being for inclusion in at least one of the BOMs; and

one or more BOM data structures for storing the plurality of BOMs, each BOM describable as a tree with each node an element of the list of elements and each branch of the tree defining a parent-child relationship, the one or more BOM data structures storing information on the parent-child relationships of the plurality of BOMs, ~~each~~ two or more of the BOM being associated with ~~an~~a respective owner of ~~a~~the set of owners, and

providing remote access to one or more elements of information in the database to one or more users,

such that the database may contain BOMS having different owners.

16.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein a BOM of a particular owner includes confidential information, and wherein the confidential information of the particular owner includes the BOM confidential information~~an owner that owns a BOM in the stored plurality includes confidential information in the BOM of the owner~~.19.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein ~~each of~~ one or more elements in the element list is associated with a respective owner of the set of owners, ~~and~~ wherein the list of elements includes an indication of ownership for each element associated with one of the owners, and wherein the confidential information of an owner that owns a element in the list of elements includes confidential information in the list of elements,

____such that unrestricted access to confidential information about a particular element in the element list that is associated with a particular owner is limited to the particular owner and none or more designates of the particular owner.

21.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 14,

wherein ~~each~~an element in the element list is one of the set consisting of a physical element and a process, wherein the physical element may itself be a BOM, and wherein the process~~that~~ may reference a set of steps or operations.